

CENTRAL AVENUE / OAKMONT AVENUE PROPOSED SIDEWALK

Capital Improvement Project No. 0506747

Public Hearing Date: February 19, 2015

COB Lobby Auditorium – 3:00 p.m.

Testimony of:

Bruce E. Johnston, Chief

Division of Transportation Engineering

Department of Transportation

GREETING:

Good afternoon Mr. Compton, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Bruce Johnston and I am Chief of the Division of Transportation Engineering for the Department of Transportation (DOT). The purpose for this afternoon's public hearing is to present to you a proposal to construct a segment of sidewalk from 206 Central Avenue to 17030 Oakmont Avenue. This new sidewalk will provide safer pedestrian travel along Central and Oakmont Avenues. The project is located in the Gaithersburg Planning Area within the Ninth Election District of Montgomery County, Maryland. The proposal is to construct a five foot wide pervious concrete sidewalk with associated roadside grading and safety treatments.

The proposed sidewalk will be constructed on:

- The south side of Central Avenue from 206 Central Avenue to Oakmont Avenue and;
- The west side of Oakmont Avenue from Central Avenue to 17030 Oakmont Avenue
- A crosswalk will be installed on Oakmont Avenue to access the MARC Train Station

PROJECT ELEMENTS

For your convenience, we have provided several displays that aid in the visual description of this project.

Display A: is a project vicinity map showing the location for the proposed sidewalk projects relative to nearby pedestrian attractions, such as public transportation, schools and the existing network of sidewalks. The proposed sidewalk is shown in red. The total length of sidewalk construction is approximately 1,150 linear feet.

Display B: is four typical sections for the proposed sidewalk. It shows the proposed curb and gutter sections, the proposed pervious sidewalk and the various grading options that will be utilized behind the proposed sidewalk. Within the proposed project area, Central Avenue has a 60 foot wide public right-of-way and the existing roadway width is approximately 20 feet wide. There is approximately 12 feet of available public right-of-way dedicated for public use along the south side of Central Avenue. Oakmont Avenue has a 40 foot wide public right-of-way and the existing roadway width is approximately 20 feet wide. There is approximately 12 feet of available public right-of-way dedicated for public use along the west side of Oakmont Avenue. The prescriptive easement along Central Avenue will need to be adjusted and temporary and perpetual easements will be required along both streets to allow for the proposed improvements.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Department of Transportation evaluates requests for pedestrian facilities based on their ability to display a public use as well as their ability to enhance public safety. The proposed sidewalk will provide safer pedestrian access to the Washington Grove MARC Train Station and for students

who are required to walk to Washington Grove Elementary and Gaithersburg High Schools. School bus transportation is provided for students attending Forest Oak Middle School and the new sidewalk would create safer travel to the existing bus stops.

The proposed construction will require the removal of three trees ranging in diameter from 31 to 34 inches in diameter as well as numerous small trees and brush. A planting plan for scheduling and spacing of replacement trees has been developed. Twenty-eight trees of varying size and caliber are anticipated to be replanted as part of the plan.

COST AND ASSESSMENTS

The estimated cost for this entire project is \$286,000. This includes project design, construction, inspection and administrative costs. Property acquisition costs for needed easements will be made presented when available. Funding will be provided under the County's Annual Sidewalk Program, CIP Project No. 0506747.

There are no properties which are considered to be specially benefited by the proposed improvement. Therefore, no properties are expected to be assessed.

EXHIBITS

Several exhibits are incorporated into the public record for your information and consideration. They are:

1. Project Description Form
2. Project Location Map, Typical Sections, Cost Estimate, and Construction Impacts.
3. Copies of newspaper publications advertising this public hearing

Project related data and files have been available for examination in the offices of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation on the 4th floor of the Edison Park Office Building, 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The files will continue to be available to the public until the record for this Public Hearing is officially closed. These files are available for review by contacting the Annual Sidewalk Program, at (240) 777-7270. If the Central Avenue /Oakmont Avenue sidewalk project is approved, DOT will utilize a work order contract currently in place with the Division of Transportation Engineering. We anticipate construction in the spring 2015. The construction is expected to take approximately two to three months to complete. Here with me this afternoon is Rick Earp, Manager, Annual Sidewalk Program, Dan Sheridan, Manager, Division of Traffic Engineering, Mark Bodmann, consultant with Wallace Montgomery and Associates and Rob Elder with the Annual Sidewalk Program. We will be available after the hearing to answer any questions regarding the construction aspect of this project.

Thank you Mr. Compton, I now turn the hearing back to you.